

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 MCT-01 SSM-03 /082 W  
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R 021506Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3876  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2051

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: P I N T L E  
SUBJ: WALID JUNBLATT

REF: BEIRUT 1657

1. SUMMARY: WALID JUNBLATT HAS HAD SOME INITIAL CONTACTS WITH MODERATE PHALANGE PERSONALITIES, BUT FINDS LITTLE REASONABLENESS OR WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE. KFUR FRONT LEADERS, HE SAYS, DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO CAPITALIZE ON MARONITE FEARS, WHICH WERE IRRATIONAL. MOSLEM POLITICS, AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, ARE IN STATE OF DISARRAY:THE OLD LEADERS OF LITTLE USE, AND WITHOUT FOLLOWING. NATIONAL MOVEMENT MUST PROFILE ITSELF AS MORE MODERATE. WALID HAD LITTLE TO OFFER AS A POLITICAL FORMULA FOR LEBANON, BUT HE FULLY AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT SARKIS. END SUMMARY.

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2. WALID JUNBLATT CALLED ON ME APRIL 29, RECIPROCATING MY CONDOLENCE CALL ON HIM AT TIME OF HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

3. DEALING WITH CHRISTIANS. WALID SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOME PHALANGE LEADERS, INCLUDING AMINE GEMAYEL AND KARIM PAKRADOUNI. THEIR TALKS HAD BEEN INTERESTING, AND IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THEM. IT

WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE OR USEFUL FOR HIM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CHAMOUNS. CAMILLE CHAMOUN HAD "GONE TOO FAR." (I BELIEVE THIS WAS REFERENCE TO SUSPICIONS THAT CHAMOUNISTS KILLED KAMAL, BUT DID NOT PRESS QUESTION.) PROBLEM IN DEALING WITH THE CHRISTIANS WAS THAT THEY DEMANDED SECURITY, BUT WERE NOT VERY SPECIFIC. HE SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO CONSIDER "GUARANTEES" TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, IF HE COULD FIND OUT WHAT CHRISTIANS WANTED. HE DEMURRED SOMEWHAT WHEN I SAID I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT EVEN THE ADVOCATES OF PARTITION WERE NOT REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT IT. HE THOUGHT SOME MARONITES WANT IT, AND ARE FOSTERING DE FACTO PARTITION.

4. CHRISTIAN FEARS. WALID AGREED THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE LACK OF RATIONAL JUSTIFICATION, FEARS OF SOME MARONITES OF BEING SWALLOWED UP WERE REAL ENOUGH. HE THOUGHT HOWEVER THAT THE KFUR FRONT LEADERS WERE DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO EXACERBATE THESE FEARS AND PROFIT FROM THEM. HE NOTED THAT OTHER CHRISTIAN SECTS, AND EVEN SOME MARONITES, DID NOT SHARE THE KFUR FRONT'S EXTREME FEARS. ONE MODERATE CHRISTIAN WHO COULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE WAS RAYMOND EDDE, BUT HE WAS AN ENEMY OF THE SYRIANS AND WAS STAYING OUT OF LEBANON FOR FEAR OF HIS LIFE.

5. MOSLEM POLITICS. WALID SAID HE REGARDED THE TRADITIONAL MOSLEM LEADERS IN WEST BEIRUT, SUCH AS SAEB SALAM, RACHID KARAME, TAKKIEDINE SOLH, AND RASHID SOLH, AS NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. THEY WERE NOT REAL LEADERS AND HAD FEW FOLLOWERS. AMONG THEM, RACHID KARAME WAS PERHAPS THE BEST. SAEB SALAM WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN PERSONAL

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AGGRANDIZEMENT. TAKKIEDINE SOLH WAS WEAK. RASHID SOLH AS PRIME MINISTER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. WHEN I ASKED WHO WERE THE YOUNGER MOSLEM LEADERS, WALID MENTIONED SAMIR SABBAGH AND SINAN BARRAGH OF THE MURABITUN AS HAVING POTENTIAL.

6. NATIONAL MOVEMENT (NM). WALID SAID THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE BUT HE DID NOT PLAN TO LEAD IT AS HIS FATHER HAD. HE HOPED A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO SHUNT THE COMMUNISTS ASIDE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE HOSTILITY OF ARAB COUNTRIES TO OVERT LEFTISM. HE SUGGESTED THAT MOST ELEMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT WERE NOT REALLY LEFTIST AT ALL, BUT THAT MOVEMENT HAD A "RED FLAG."

7. POLITICAL FORMULA. WALID BELIEVES OLD FORMULA OF 1943 IS INADEQUATE. HE IMPLIED HE FAVORED DECONFES- SIONALIZATION, BUT WAS NOT SPECIFIC. FOR NOW THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT SARKIS. I AGREED, AND NOTED THAT WE WERE DOING ALL WE COULD, WITHIN THE

LIMITATIONS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC ROLE, TO ENCOURAGE THE CHRISTIANS ALONG THIS LINE.

8. U.S. ROLE. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT THE U.S. COULD DO TO HELP FIND LEBANESE NATIONAL POLITICAL RECONCILIATION, WALID SAID HE THOUGHT THE MOST USEFUL THING WOULD BE FOR US TO CONTINUE TO USE OUR INFLUENCE WITH THE CHRISTIANS TO TAKE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS. WE COULD ALSO HELP ASSURE THAT THE ARAB WORLD PLAYS A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN LEBANON.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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